



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

## Press Release

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Released: July 24, 2009

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### **Sheep and Lamb Inventory Down 3 Percent; Goat and Kid Inventory Down 2 Percent**

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on July 1, 2009 totaled 7.05 million head, down 3 percent from July 1, 2008. Breeding sheep inventory at 4.28 million head on July 1, 2009 was down 3 percent from July 1, 2008. Market sheep and lambs (including newborn lambs), at 2.77 million head, were down 3 percent from last July. The breeding herd consists of 3.47 million ewes one year old and older, 180,000 rams one year old and older, and 630,000 replacement lambs (including newborn lambs). Market lamb inventory at 2.69 million head was comprised of 1.60 million lambs under 65 pounds, 560,000 lambs 65-84 pounds, 290,000 lambs 85-105 pounds, and 240,000 lambs over 105 pounds. Market sheep inventory was 80,000 head. The 2009 lamb crop in the United States is expected to total 3.70 million head, down slightly from the 2008 lamb crop of 3.71 million head. Lambs born during January through June 2009 totaled 3.25 million head or 88 percent of the yearly total. An additional 450,000 head are expected to be born during the period July through December 2009.

All goat inventory on July 1, 2009 totaled 3.71 million head, down 2 percent from the previous July number. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.79 million head, down 2 percent from July 2008. All market goats and kids totaled 925,000 head, down 2 percent from the previous July. On July 1, 2009 meat and all other goats totaled 3.16 million head, down 1 percent from July 2008. Milk goat inventory was up 4 percent increasing to 385,000 head while angora goat numbers fell 28 percent to 165,000 head. The 2009 kid crop in the United States is expected to total 1.96 million head, virtually unchanged from the 2008 kid crop. The 2009 expected kidding rate of 103 kids per 100 does is up 1 percent from the 2008 kid rate of 102.

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